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Case 2:09-cv-00048-AHM-RZ Document 91

Plaintiffs Larry C. Flynt, LFP Video Group, LLC, and LFP IP, LLC ("Plaintiffs") and Defendants Flynt Media Corporation, Jimmy Flynt, II and Dustin Flynt ("Defendants") hereby submit their joint Stipulation Re the Continued Deposition of Jimmy Flynt, Sr.:

- 1. Jimmy Flynt, Sr. is the brother of Plaintiff Larry Flynt and the father of Defendants Dustin and Jimmy Flynt, II.
- 2. On or about April 13, 2009, pursuant to a subpoena issued in the Southern District of Ohio by counsel for the Plaintiffs, Jimmy Flynt, Sr. appeared for deposition in Cincinnati, Ohio. During the deposition, Jimmy Flynt, Sr. refused to answer any substantive questions and asserted the Fifth Amendment privilege.

 A true and correct copy of the deposition transcript is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- 3. On or about June 3, 2009, Plaintiffs filed and pursued a motion in the Southern District of Ohio in hopes of compelling Jimmy Flynt, Sr.'s testimony. On or about July 21, 2009, Magistrate Judge Timothy S. Hogan held a conference and instructed counsel for Jimmy Flynt, Sr. and Plaintiffs' counsel to reach an agreement on the continued deposition of Jimmy Flynt, Sr. An agreement could not be reached and a hearing on Plaintiffs' motions was eventually set on September 30, 2009. A decision from Magistrate Judge Hogan was issued on October 1, 2009. A true and correct copy of the decision is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

///

///

- 4. In conformance with the Southern District of Ohio's decision in this matter, Plaintiffs' counsel issued a Notice of Continued Deposition of Jimmy Flynt, Sr., setting the continued deposition for October 21, 2009.
- 5. The scheduled close of non-expert discovery in this matter was May 22, 2009. The parties therefore agree and stipulate that the deposition of Jimmy Flynt Sr. may take place after May 22, 2009, and request, to the extent necessary, that the Court extend the deadline for non-expert discovery to allow for the completion of Jimmy Flynt Sr.'s deposition.
- 6. By entering into this stipulation, Defendants reserve their right to seek permission to amend their trial witness list to include Jimmy Flynt, Sr., and Plaintiffs reserve the right to object to same.

THEREFORE, the parties, through their respective counsel, stipulate and request that to the extent required, that this Court issue an Order approving the Continued Deposition of Jimmy Flynt Sr. in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and in conformance with the Order of Magistrate Timothy S. Hogan dated October 1, 2009.

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1	DATED: October 19, 2009	LEWIS BRI	SBOIS BISGAARI	O & SMITH LLP
2				
3		By: <u>/s/ Dar</u> Daniel (niel C. DeCarlo C. DeCarlo	
4		Mina I. Daniel I	niel C. DeCarlo C. DeCarlo Hamilton R. Lewis	
5		Attorne	ys for Defendants	
6 7	DATED: October 19, 2009	LIPSITZ GR	LEEN SCIME CAM	IBRIA LLP
8				
9		By: <u>/s/ Jor</u>	nathan W. Brown Cambria Ir	
10		Jonatha Attorne	nathan W. Brown Cambria Jr. n W. Brown ys for Plaintiffs	
11		Attorne	ys for Framulis	
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EXHIBIT A

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1
              UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
1
             CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
2
3
  LARRY C. FLYNT, LPF VIDEO
   GROUP, LLC, and LFP IP, LLC,
                                 CASE NO.:
          Plaintiffs,
6
                                 2:09-CV-00048-AHM-RZx
7
         VS.
   FLYNT MEDIA CORPORATION, a
8
   Delaware corporation; JIMMY
   FLYNT, II; DUSTIN FLYNT; and
10
   DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,
11
          Defendants.
12
13
              Deposition of JIMMY FLYNT, SR., Witness
14
15
   herein, called by the Plaintiffs for direct
   examination pursuant to the Rules of Civil
16
   Procedure, taken before me, Karen M. Rudd, a
17
   Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, at the
18
   offices of Sirkin, Pinales & Schwartz, 105 West
19
   Fourth Street, Suite 920, Cincinnati, Ohio, on
20
21
   Monday, April 27, 2009, at 8:46 a.m.
22
23
24
25
```

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2
1
   APPEARANCES:
2
      On behalf of the Plaintiffs:
3
           Lipsitz, Green, Scime, Cambria
           Jonathan W. Brown
4
      By:
           Attorney at Law
           42 Delaware Avenue
5
           Suite 120
           Buffalo, New York 14202
6
7
      and
           Labowe, Labowe & Hoffman
9
      By: Mark S. Hoffman
           Attorney at Law
1.0
           1631 W. Beverly Boulevard
           Second Floor
1.1
           Los Angeles, California
      On behalf of the Defendants:
12
13
            Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith
           Daniel C. DeCarlo
14
      Bv:
            Attorney at Law
15
            221 N. Figueroa Street
            Suite 1200
            Los Angeles, California 90012
16
17
      On behalf of the Witness:
            Sirkin, Pinales & Schwartz
18
           H. Louis Sirkin
19
      By:
            Attorney at Law
            920 Fourth & Race Tower
20
            105 West Fourth Street
21
            Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
   ALSO PRESENT:
22
23
            Theresa Flynt
24
25
```

08:46:16 MR. SIRKIN: Mr. Flynt has been advised to exercise his rights under the Fifth 08:46:19 08:46:22 Amendment where appropriate. I will indicate that it is my belief that there are currently, 08:46:25 08:46:28 and I don't believe that there's any -- I don't know of any investigation that's going on 08:46:31 against Hustler or anything with that, but 08:46:33 08:46:36 there have been some federal indictments, and 08:46:39 I'm aware of a couple that I cannot disclose, because we may be involved in them. 08:46:42 10 08:46:46 11 But I can tell you there's one case that is currently pending in the District 08:46:47 12 of Columbia, it's against Evil Angel and John 08:46:53 13 Stagliano, and we believe that a lot of 08:46:57 14 08:47:00 15 information that the government has in that case, because we have been supplied copies of 08:47:03 16 depositions, that Mr. Stagliano had given and 08:47:05 17 responded to in his piracy case out in 08:47:10 18 19 California. 08:47:14 20 So based upon our concern, 08:47:14 Mr. Flynt will be asserting his rights. 08:47:18 2.1 will refer you to Rogers versus the United 08:47:21 2.2 States, which is 71 S. Ct. 438, that the 23 08:47:25 propriety of exercising ones right to the Fifth 08:47:31 24 Amendment in civil proceedings where 08:47:33 25

```
4
08:47:35
         appropriate where an answer my tend to
08:47:37
         incriminate. You are free to go forward.
08:47:42
                        MR. HOFFMAN: Let's swear him in.
                             JIMMY FLYNT, SR.
08:47:42
       4
08:47:42
          of lawful age, Witness herein, having been first
          duly cautioned and sworn, as hereinafter
       7
          certified, was examined and said as follows:
                            DIRECT EXAMINATION
       8
          BY MR. BROWN:
08:47:56
                       Good morning, Mr. Flynt.
0B:47:56 10
                   Q.
                        Good morning.
08:47:57
      11
                   Α.
08:47:57
                        My name is Jonathan Brown. I'm
                   Q.
08:47:59
          one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs in this
      13
          case. Can you please spell your full name for
      14
08:48:01
          the record?
08:48:07 15
                        Jimmy, JIMMY, Flynt, FLYNT.
08:48:07 16
                   Α.
08:48:13
      17
                   Q.
                        And have you been known by any
08:48:18
      18
          other names, sir?
08:48:19 19
                   Α.
                         No.
08:48:20 20
                         And have you ever had your
                   Q.
          deposition taken before?
08:48:22 21
                        On a divorce proceeding many, many
08:48:23 22
                   Α.
08:48:28 23
          years ago.
08:48:28 24
                        Anything else?
                   Q.
08:48:29 25
                   Α.
                         I don't know. No.
```

Okay. I assume that your lawyer Q. has already explained to you a little bit about the deposition process, but I want to go over a few ground rules before we get into the facts

Unless your attorney instructs you otherwise, you must give me a verbal answer to my questions. Do you understand that?

- Α. Yes.
- In other words, the court reporter can't record a head nod and has difficulty transcribing words like uh-huh and uh-uh and na. So I would like to ask you to try to verbalize your response the best as possible using yes, no, or other words to that effect. Is that fair?
 - Α. I understand.
- And when we are talking today, Q. your attorney may assert objections for the record, et cetera. We need to be careful and try not to talk over one another. You need to try to let me finish my question before you answer. Is that fair?
 - Α. Yes.
 - And when I ask you a question, I'm Q.

of the case.

08:48:49 9

08:48:33

08:48:35

08:48:37

08:48:39

08:48:42

08:48:44

08:48:46

08:48:48

08:48:49 10

11

12 08:48:55

08:48:52

08:48:59 13

08:49:01 14

08:49:03 15

08:49:07 16

08:49:07 17

08:49:08

08:49:13 19 08:49:19 20

18

08:49:20 21

08:49:22 22

08:49:24 23

08:49:25 24

08:49:25 25

08:49:29 1 going to assume that you understand it. So if 08:49:32 2 you don't understand it, please let me know, 08:49:34 3 and I will try to rephrase it.

- A. Yes.
- Q. And we are going to take a break or two, I'm sure, during the deposition, and if you need to take a break at any point in time, please let me know that.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. As you probably know already, the court reporter sitting to your left will be preparing a transcript or a record of our deposition here, and you are going to be given that transcript for review. Do you understand that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And you will have an opportunity to make any corrections or clarifications that you would like to the deposition transcript.

 Do you understand that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you also understand that if you do make any changes to the transcript today, that we will be able to use those changes to question your veracity? Do you understand

08:49:36

08:49:36

08:49:42

- 08:49:40 6
- 08:49:44
- 08:49:46
- 08:49:47 10 08:49:52 11
- 08:49:56 12
- 08:50:00 13
- 08:50:03 14
- 08:50:06 15
- 08:50:06 16
- 08:50:06 17
- 08:50:08 18
- 08:50:13 1
- 08:50:16 20
- 08:50:17 21
- 08:50:17 22
- 08:50:21 23
- 08:50:25 24
- 08:50:29 25

7 that? 08:50:32 08:50:33 Α. Yes. And have you taken any medications 08:50:33 08:50:39 within the past 24 hours that might impair your ability to give us your best testimony today? 08:50:41 08:50:45 Α. No. Have you taken any alcohol in the Q. 08:50:45 past 24 hours? 08:50:49 -8 Α. No. 08:50:50 And is there any reason that you 08:50:52 10 Q. cannot give your best testimony today? 08:50:55 11 Α. No. 12 08:50:57 Q. I'd like to know everything you 08:50:57 13 did prior to coming to your deposition today. 08:51:05 14 Did you review any documents? 15 08:51:08 My Fifth Amendment rights. 08:51:12 16 Α. 08:51:17 17 Q. Anything else? 08:51:18 18 Α. Nope When is the last time you spoke 08:51:21 19 Q. with your son -- let me back up. You have how 08:51:23 20 many sons, sir? 08:51:30 21 08:51:31 22 Α. Two. 08:51:32 23 And what are their names? 0. A. Jimmy and Dustin. 08:51:34 24 And Jimmy R. Flynt, II, is a 08:51:36 25 Q.

8 08:51:40 defendant in this action. Do you understand that? 08:51:42 08:51:42 A. That's what I understand. Okay. And you also understand 08:51:43 Q. that Dustin Flynt, your other son, is also a 08:51:45 defendant in this action? 08:51:47 That's what I hear. 7 Α. 08:51:48 08:51:49 Ο. Okay. And your brother is Larry 08:51:53 C. Flynt; is that correct? 08:51:54 10 Α. That's correct. 08:51:55 Ο. Is he your older brother or younger brother? 08:51:57 12 08:51:58 13 Α. Older. Okay. Getting back to my other 08:51:59 14 Q. 08:52:07 15 question. Did you review any documents before you came here today related to this lawsuit? 08:52:10 16 A. I answered -- the Fifth Amendment, 08:52:14 17 I mean, my rights under the -- granted to me 08:52:17 18 under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. 08:52:20 19 That's what I have reviewed. 08:52:22 20 Q. Okay. And did you speak with your 08:52:23 21 08:52:26 22 son Jimmy, II? 08:52:28 23 Α. No. Q. Did you speak with Dustin? 08:52:29 24 Very seldom. 08:52:30 25 Α.

9 08:52:32 Q. And did you speak with anyone other than your attorney about your deposition 08:52:35 08:52:37 here? 08:52:37 Α. No. 08:52:39 Q. What does LFP stand for? 6 Larry Flynt Publications. 08:52:51 7 And how long have you been 08:52:54 0. involved with Larry Flynt publications? 08:52:58 9 MR. DeCARLO: Objection, vaque. 08:53:02 08:53:05 THE WITNESS: Since the -- oh, 1.0 okay. I'm going to take the Fifth Amendment. 08:53:09 11 08:53:14 12 It grants me the rights under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution that whatever I 08:53:16 13 08:53:18 14 testify to may tend to incriminate me. 08:53:22 15 Q. Have you ever been employed by --08:53:25 16 well, let me back up. You understand your 17 brother Larry Flynt owns many, many different 08:53:28 companies. Do you understand that? 08:53:31 1.8 08:53:33 19 A. I respectfully decline to answer 08:53:35 20 this question that it might incriminate me and violates my Fifth Amendment rights. 08:53:39 21 08:53:41 22 Q. Have you ever been employed by an 08:53:42 23 LFP company? 08:53:44 24 Α. I respectfully decline to answer 08:53:48 25 that question on the grounds that it may

10 incriminate me by the rights granted to me by 08:53:49 08:53:54 the Fifth Amendment. 08:53:55 Q. What is Flynt Media Corporation? 08:53:58 I respectfully decline to answer 08:54:00 that question on the grounds that it might incriminate me by the rights granted to me in 08:54:02 08:54:05 the Fifth Amendment. 08:54:06 O. Do you have any ownership interest in Flynt Media Corporation? 08:54:08 08:54:09 10 A. I respectfully decline to answer 08:54:12 11 that question, it may tend to incriminate me, by the rights granted to me by the Fifth 08:54:16 12 Amendment. 08:54:16 1.3 08:54:19 14 MR. DeCARLO: Can we go off the 08:54:20 15 record a second? 08:54:21 16 MR. BROWN: Sure. 08:54:21 1.7 (Thereupon, an off-the-record 09:02:13 18 discussion was held.) 09:02:13 19 MR. BROWN: Counsel for the 09:02:16 20 parties have conferred off the record 09:02:19 21 concerning Jimmy R. Flynt, Sr.'s, assertion of the Fifth Amendment privilege. It is our 09:02:26 22 09:02:28 23 understanding today that he will not answer any questions related to his employment with any of 09:02:31 24 09:02:36 25 Larry Flynt's companies.

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It is also my understanding he 09:02:38 will not answer any questions related to Flynt 09:02:40 Media Corporation, the formation of Flynt Media 09:02:44 Corporation, the Flynt DVD line released by 09:02:47 09:02:52 Flynt Media Corporation. I also understand he will not -- he will continue to assert the 09:02:55 Fifth as to any conversations he may have had 09:02:58 with his sons concerning Flynt Media 09:03:01 Corporation. 09:03:04 I also understand that he is 09:03:05 10 09:03:07 11 asserting the Fifth as to any conversations he may have had with his brother concerning Flynt 09:03:09 12 09:03:12 13 Media Corporation. Are there any other areas I'm missing? 09:03:16 14 09:03:17 1.5 MR. DeCARLO: It's my understanding that Mr. Flynt will not testify 09:03:18 16 to any -- to his current status vis-a-vis any 09:03:21 17 Larry Flynt company, as well as any of the 09:03:27 18 conversations he has had with Larry Flynt and 19 09:03:30 others about his current employment status. 09:03:33 20 21 MR. SIRKIN: That is correct. 09:03:39 09:03:50 22 Mr. Flynt, did you originally Q. spell your name with an I, the last name, 09:03:52 2.3 09:03:55 24 FLINT? 09:03:58 2.5 I'm going to not answer that Α.

```
12
          question by my rights granted by the Fifth
09:04:00
          Amendment as it may incriminate me.
09:04:05
                         Is your brother Larry C. Flynt
09:04:09
          famous?
09:04:11
                         I think that's been stipulated to.
                   Α.
09:04:13
                         MR. BROWN: Is there anything else
09:04:19
          we need to put on the record?
09:04:20
                         MR. DeCARLO: All my questions
09:04:22
          will not be answered, so I do have questions,
09:04:23
          but in light of the representation by
       10
09:04:25
          Mr. Sirkin, I don't feel it would be productive
       11
09:04:28
          to go any further.
09:04:30
       12
                         MR. BROWN: And I also would like
       13
09:04:31
          to say that I have several hours' worth of
09:04:32
       14
          questions that we would like to ask the
09:04:35
       15
          deponent here today, but given the stance
09:04:37
       16
          regarding the Fifth Amendment privilege, we
       17
09:04:41
           obviously have a lot of area to cover and that
09:04:44
       1.8
           the deponent is refusing to answer.
       19
09:04:48
                         MR. SIRKIN: He is not refusing;
       20
09:04:52
          he is asserting his rights under the Fifth
09:04:53 21
           Amendment.
       22
09:04:56
                         MR. BROWN: Well, he is refusing
09:04:56 23
          to answer based upon his rights under the Fifth
 09:04:57 24
 09:05:00 25
          Amendment.
```

13 MR. SIRKIN: I'm not going to play 09:05:02 semantics. He is asserting a right quaranteed 09:05:04 to him by the Fifth Amendment. 3 09:05:06 MR. HOFFMAN: We will just have to 09:05:11 have the judge in Los Angeles determine the 09:05:12 propriety or lack of propriety of the 09:05:16 assertions and the travel expenses and 09:05:17 out-of-pocket expenses incurred coming here to 09:05:20 take -- to attempt to --09:05:22 MR. SIRKIN: Well --09:05:25 10 MR. HOFFMAN: Let me finish -- to 09:05:25 11 attempt to take the deposition of Mr. Flynt. 121 09:05:27 I'm not the judge. I don't know what he is 09:05:28 1.3 going to do, and it's not my place to 14 09:05:30 15 speculate, but I told you off the record that 09:05:32 there have been expenses incurred. 09:05:34 16 MR. SIRKIN: I understand that. 09:05:36 17 MR. HOFFMAN: Two days of travel. 1.8 09:05:37 MR. SIRKIN: I will also indicate 09:05:38 19 to you that it is no surprise that he is 09:05:39 20 asserting the Fifth Amendment. I indicated 21 09:05:42 that as early as the beginning of March that he 22 09:05:44 would be asserting it where I believed it was 09:05:46 23 appropriate, and that's a determination based 09:05:48 24 upon my experience, my knowledge of what I 09:05:52 25

```
14
          believe is going on in the United States today
09:05:55
       1
          and investigations and that he is asserting the
09:05:57
          Fifth Amendment. If the judge compels, then we
09:06:01
          will follow Court orders.
09:06:03
09:06:09
       5
                         MR. HOFFMAN: Off the record,
          ma'am.
09:06:12
       7
                         (Thereupon, an off-the-record
09:06:12
          discussion was held.)
      8
09:07:24
                         MR. BROWN: Counsel have just
       9
09:07:24
          conferred off the record. The transcript for
09:07:32 10
          today's deposition will be sent to Mr. Sirkin's
      11
09:07:35
          office and within one week of receipt
09:07:39
      12
          Mr. Sirkin will let the parties know whether
09:07:42
      13
          there have been any changes or corrections to
      14
09:07:44
          the transcript. So stipulated?
09:07:46 15
09:07:51 16
                         MR. DeCARLO: So stipulated.
                         MR. SIRKIN: So stipulated.
09:07:52
      1.7
                         (Thereupon, the deposition was
09:07:56
      18
          concluded at 9:07 a.m.)
      19
09:07:58
       20
       21
       22
       23
       24
       25
```

```
16
1
   STATE OF OHIO
   COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY ) SS: CERTIFICATE
3
                I, Karen M. Rudd, a Notary
   Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly
4
   commissioned and qualified,
                DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the
6
7
   above-named JIMMY FLYNT, SR., was by me first duly
   sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and
   nothing but the truth.
                Said testimony was reduced to
10
11
   writing by me stenographically in the presence
12
   of the witness and thereafter reduced to
13
   typewriting.
                I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a
14
   relative or Attorney of either party, in any
15
16
   manner interested in the event of this action,
   nor am I, or the court reporting firm with which
1.7
   I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in
18
   Civil Rule 28(D).
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

1	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
2	my hand and seal of office at Dayton, Ohio, on
3	this 27th day of April , 2009.
4	1/
5	KAREN M. RUDD
6	NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF OHIO My commission expires 5-21-2012
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
1.3	
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18	
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2122	
23	
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25	
29	
	I and the second

Flynt, Larry C., et al. v. Flynt Media Corporation, etc., et al.

Jimmy Flynt, Sr.

				Page 1
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EXHIBIT B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO WESTERN DIVISION

IN RE:

JIMMY FLYNT, SR.

CASE NO. 1:09 -mc-00043 (HOGAN, M. J.)

ORDER

A case is pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, in which the Flynt Brothers, Larry and Jimmy, Sr., have an interest. In that case, Larry claims that Jimmy, Sr.'s two sons, Jimmy II and Dustin, and their corporation used the Flynt name and trademark without permission. A subpoena was issued from this District compelling Jimmy Flynt, Sr. to be deposed. Jimmy Flynt, Sr. appeared for his deposition, but invoked the protection of the Fifth Amendment to multiple questions. Jimmy, Sr.'s fear is that by testifying freely, he will provide information to prosecutors which will assist them in prosecuting him for violations of obscenity laws. This behavior set the stage for the filling of two Motions, the first is Larry's Motion to Disqualify H. Louis Sirkin, Esq. from representing Jimmy, Sr. at the deposition, and the second is Larry's Motion for Jimmy Sr. to show cause why he should not be held in contempt. We decline to order H. Louis Sirkin removed as counsel for the purpose for which he was retained and we decline to require Jimmy, Sr. to show cause, but we do order the rescheduling of Jimmy, Sr.'s deposition.

THE MOTION TO DISQUALIFY

Larry Flynt, a plaintiff is this case, has established, and it is common knowledge, that Mr. Sirkin has been his lawyer and the lawyer for his various companies, including "Hustler Hollywood" for years, and currently represents "Hustler Hollywood," a limited liability company in which Larry Flynt has an interest, in a case pending in a Kentucky Appeals Court. Plaintiffs assert that Mr. Sirkin cannot serve as Jimmy, Sr.'s counsel because Rule 1.7, Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct, precludes such service. Simply stated, Plaintiffs say that Mr. Sirkin cannot serve as counsel for Jimmy, Sr. because Jimmy, Sr.'s interest is adverse to that of Larry.

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It is, perhaps, ironic that Mr. Sirkin was asked by counsel for Plaintiffs to accept service of the deposition subpoena on behalf of Jimmy, Sr. In any event, Mr. Sirkin has filed no formal response, but has orally informed this Court that he was called into service at the last minute, had little time to prepare for the deposition in question and that the scope of his representation was restricted to advising Jimmy, Sr. on his Fifth Amendment rights. In short, Mr. Sirkin's argument is that in so advising Jimmy, Sr., he took no stance adverse to Larry.

Subsequently, counsel for Plaintiffs has provided a list of topics upon which he wishes to question Jimmy, Sr. The Count has reviewed that document and observes that not all the questions call for privileged information. In addition, we believe that Mr. Sirkin has the skill and experience necessary to advise Jimmy, Sr. without compromising any interest of Larry's. If Mr. Sirkin does assert any position adverse to Larry during Jimmy, Sr.'s deposition, the Court will intervene if and when put on notice. The Motion to Disqualify H. Louis Sirkin Esq. is denied.

THE MOTION TO SHOW CAUSE

The deposition of Jimmy, Sr. was terminated, not by Jimmy, Sr. or his lawyer, but by Plaintiffs. While Jimmy, Sr. may have been ill advised to assert his Fifth Amendment Right as frequently as he did, he complied with the directive of the subpoena and did appear for his deposition. No Court Order was sought compelling Jimmy, Sr. to answer any question over his Fifth Amendment objection in compliance with Rule 37, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Under the circumstances, we do not believe that contempt is the proper remedy. On the other hand, Plaintiffs have been deprived of information which they are entitled to receive.

The correct procedure, it seems to us, is to reschedule the deposition of Jimmy, Sr., not by notice, but by agreement of counsel. Jimmy, Sr.'s counsel can assert his Fifth Amendment privilege where applicable and any disputes may be resolved by a telephonic conference with the supervising Magistrate Judge. Should the privilege be improperly asserted, the deponent will be ordered to answer, and likely found in contempt if he refuses. It would save time if counsel for Plaintiffs would provide a list of topics upon which he wishes to depose Jimmy, Sr., and counsel for Jimmy, Sr. would be prepared to make a specific argument why his client believes that prosecution has begun, is probable or possible. Counsel for Plaintiffs may want to consider how to avoid any Fifth Amendment issue by seeking other ways to obtain the same information.

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The Court also orders the parties to this dispute to disclose the date and time for Jimmy, Sr.'s rescheduled deposition so that time may be allocated to rule on the propriety of Jimmy, Sr.'s invocation of the Fifth Amendment privilege, if necessary.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

October 1, 2009

Timothy S. Hogan

United States Magistrate Judge